

.

From: Khan, Annie (DPH)
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2006 7:37 AM
To: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH); Frasca, Daniela (DPH)
Cc: Medina, Nicole (DPH); 'Vo, Thuytien'
Subject: FW: Stella Awards

> The Annual Stella Awards

>

> It's time once again to review the winners of the Annual "Stella
> Awards." The Stella Awards are named after 81 year-old Stella Liebeck
> who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued McDonald's
> (in NM). That case inspired the Stella awards for the most frivolous,
> ridiculous, successful lawsuits in the United States.

>

> Here are this year's winners:

>

> 5th Place (tie): Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded
> \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over
> a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the
> store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the
> misbehaving little toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

>

> 5th Place (tie): 19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000
> and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda
> Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the
> wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

>

> 5th Place (tie):
> Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had
> just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the
> garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was
> malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door
> connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut.
> The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in
> the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found,
> and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's Insurance
> claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury
> agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

>

> 4th Place:
> Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 and
> medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door
> neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced
> yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog
> might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr.
> Williams who had climbed over the fence into the yard and was

> shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.
>
> 3rd Place:
> A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of
> Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink
> and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because
> Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during
> an argument.
>
> 2nd Place:
> Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware, successfully sued the owner of a
> night club in a neighboring city when she fell from the bathroom
> window to the floor and knocked out her two front teeth. This occurred
> while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the window in the ladies
> room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded
> \$12,000 and dental expenses.
>
> 1st Place:
> This year's run away winner was Mrs. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City,
> Oklahoma. Mrs. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor
> home. On her first trip home, (from an OU football game), having
> driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at
> 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back & make
> herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the RV left the freeway, crashed
> and overturned.
> Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising her in the owner's
> manual that she couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded her
> \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their
> manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other
> complete morons around.
>